

MINUTES
Park & Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, September 6, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.
Lower Level Conference Room

Members Present: Brad Bark, Rick Bierman, Sarah Hoeg, Pete Degabriele, Gina Othmer and Delman Kuhlers

Members Absent: Dana LaRue

Staff Present: Rich Klimes

Guests Present: Chris Wistedt, Laura Wistedt, Tom Booth, Jane Marshall, David Littrel and Caleb Littrel

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.

Bark motioned to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2023 regular meeting as distributed. Seconded by Othmer. All ayes; motion carries.

Discussion – Sports Dome Project

The City Staff has worked in collaboration with the Muscatine Community and Muscatine County to raise \$4,000,000.00 for the Muscatine Indoor Sports Dome. The funding for this project will come from the City of Muscatine \$600,00.00, Muscatine County \$400,000.00, private donations \$2,000,000.00, and a State of Iowa Destination Iowa Grant \$1,000,000.00. The new complex will be located at the Muscatine Soccer West site across from the Muscatine Soccer Complex on field #11. The project will include the construction of an indoor, temperature-controlled, multi-use facility that will consist of a synthetic turf field and an inflatable year-round dome structure (approximately 350' long x 250' wide x 75' high). There will also be restrooms and a concession area on site. If fire suppressant is needed, that will be an additional \$400,000.

The proposed members for the Sports Dome Design Committee are:

1. Brad Bark – Chamber/Council
2. Gina Othmer – Soccer (Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission)
3. Sarah Hoeg – Softball/Baseball (Parks and Recreation Advisor Commission)
4. Dana DeKeyrel – Kent Stein Park Tournaments
5. Nate Meineke – Soccer Complex Tournaments
6. Jim Howe – Funding/Business Community
7. Andrew Fangman – City Community Development
8. Kevin Coon – City Engineer

9. Rich Klimes – Parks and Recreation Department
10. Jeff Limburg – Facility Maintenance
11. Kelsie Stafford – Facility Usage
12. Kevin Jenison – City Communications Manager

Bark motioned to approve the proposed Sports Dome Design Committee. Seconded by Othmer. All ayes; motion carries.

Discussion – Bruner Field

City Council gifted Bruner Field to the Muscatine Community School District and renovations are now taking place.

Discussion – Cemetery Rules and Regulations

This item was pulled from the agenda to allow for a more detailed discussion at the next meeting.

Discussion – American Legion/Duncan Park

Staff gave commission a brief history on the origin of Duncan Park. The American Legion has requested the commission endorse gifting Duncan Park to them as they would like to designate a war memorial in that area.

Commission tabled the request as they would like information on the following items:

1. Current maintenance costs
2. Value of the land
3. Request the Duncan family to be notified
4. Concept plan approved by the city engineer

Discussion – Weed Park Festival of Lights

City Council approved the Weed Park Festival of Lights request. Megan Francis reached out to see if the company could start setting up lights in October now instead of November. The request to set up early was not approved at this time as shelter rentals and maintenance will still be taking place in October.

Discussion – Aquatic Center Master Plan

Staff is looking at putting together a committee to work with them on potential upgrades at the aquatic center.

Hoeg motioned to appoint Rick Bierman, Brad Bark and Gina Othmer to the committee. Seconded by Kuhlert. All ayes; motion carries.

Update – Programs and Projects Updates

Programs –The Parks and Recreation Department Fall/Winter Brochure is now available on the City website. Registrations are now under way for the following programs: Little Muskies Football, Sports Starters, Gymnastics and Adult Volleyball.

Projects – Staff gave an update on the following projects:

- The Soccer Irrigation Project was approved by City Council and the project will hopefully start later this month.
- The Muscatine Community Foundation Southend Improvement Projects continue to make progress on the following items:
 - The trail connector from Kent Stein Park to Sunset Housing will be done by the end of the month.
 - We still haven't received the restrooms and are now in litigation with the vendor.
 - The crosswalk from Oregon Street to Earl Avenue should be done by the end of the month.
 - The splashpad at Taylor Park is open. There are two components that do not currently work. The City is working with the manufacturer, contractor and design engineer to fix the issue.
 - We are working on a plan to replace the rust spots on the pickleball courts.
 - Additional amenities will be added once we know where we're at with the restrooms and pickleball courts.
- The Weed Park Lagoon Project was approved and we are in the process of soliciting engineering services. Some items of concern are: fix the bridge, dredge the lagoon, add rip rap, replace the decking, etc.
- The Cemetery Chapel Repair Project was approved and the contractor will complete the repairs in the fall once the weather has cooled off.
- Security cameras for parks and recreation sites were approved for \$80,000.

Caleb Littrel presented his request to replace two bridges at Fuller Park for his boy scouts project. Othmer asked what the estimated costs would be. Caleb stated it would cost approximately \$15,000 to replace both bridges. Degabriele asked which bridge he would replace first if he only raised half the money. Caleb stated he would replace the bridge that is in more disarray first. Kuhlert asked when the project would start. Caleb stated he would start the project next spring pending funding and materials. Staff informed everyone that the City does not have funding for this project but if the commission members know of anyone to please send them Caleb's way.

Update – Special Events

Current and upcoming special events were discussed. The Cemetery Walk will be held Sunday, September 24th at 1:00 pm. If you are interested in being a tour guide please reach out to Kelsie Stafford, Program Supervisor.

Other Business

Staff and commission members discussed how great RAGBRAI was for the community.

Degabriele mentioned there are a couple boards that need replaced on the big bridge at Fuller Park.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Rexroth
Officer Coordinator